

ABSTRACT

A catalyst composition comprises the reaction product of an alkoxide or condensed alkoxide of a metal M, selected from titanium, zirconium, hafnium, aluminium, or a lanthanide, an alcohol containing at least two hydroxyl groups, a 2-hydroxy carboxylic acid and a base, wherein the ~~molar~~-ratio of equivalents of base to -COOH acid equivalents of said 2-hydroxy carboxylic acid is in the range ~~0.01—0.79:1~~ 0.0033 - 0.2:1. The composition is useful as a catalyst for esterification reactions, especially for the production of polyesters such as polyethylene terephthalate, polytrimethylene terephthalate and polybutylene terephthalate.